



Cedar Field Greenhouses

Freelton, Ontario

"In the cut flower business, you not only have Canadian competition but with improving transportation and communication systems, product is available from all over the world. When you are a small business operator, you need to keep on top of the latest developments in your area to ensure that you remain competitive."

"When you find something that is good for the bottom line and the environment, you have a real winner. That is how the computer system for our greenhouses has turned out."

René Juraschka
President
Cedar Field Greenhouses Ltd.

THE COMPANY

Cedar Field Greenhouses is a family-owned operation which was started in 1958. It specializes in cut chrysanthemums, alstroemeria, limonium and ivy hanging baskets for distribution in Canada and the United States. The company is Canada's largest grower of limonium, a flower used as a filler in fresh and dried arrangements.

The cut flower business has become extremely competitive as South American countries, with their ideal growing conditions, lower wages and fewer environmental regulations, have begun to export large quantities world-wide.

Cedar Field has remained competitive by adopting innovative systems.

THE CHALLENGE

After completing an evaluation of his business in 1993, René Juraschka decided that he should be able to automatically control conditions in his greenhouses. Mr. Juraschka contacted three companies that specialize in greenhouse control systems.

OPPORTUNITIES

He learned that a system could be installed to control the heating, cool-



Heat retention curtains provide shading during the day and reduce heat loss at night.

ing, humidity, lighting and carbon dioxide level in the eleven zones of his greenhouse operation. Heat retention curtains could provide shading during the day, as well as reduce heat loss at night.

ACTION TAKEN

A computer system supplied by Argus Controls and heat retention systems for three thousand square metres of space were installed in the greenhouses. The computer monitors conditions inside and outside the greenhouses and controls heating and ventilation equipment, lighting circuits and seven boilers.

RESULTS

The computer system and heat retention curtains have worked well. Crop quality has improved, energy costs have been reduced by 22 per cent and fewer chemicals are needed to combat disease and other problems related to humidity. As well as saving money, Cedar Field is having less impact on the environment.

REPLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

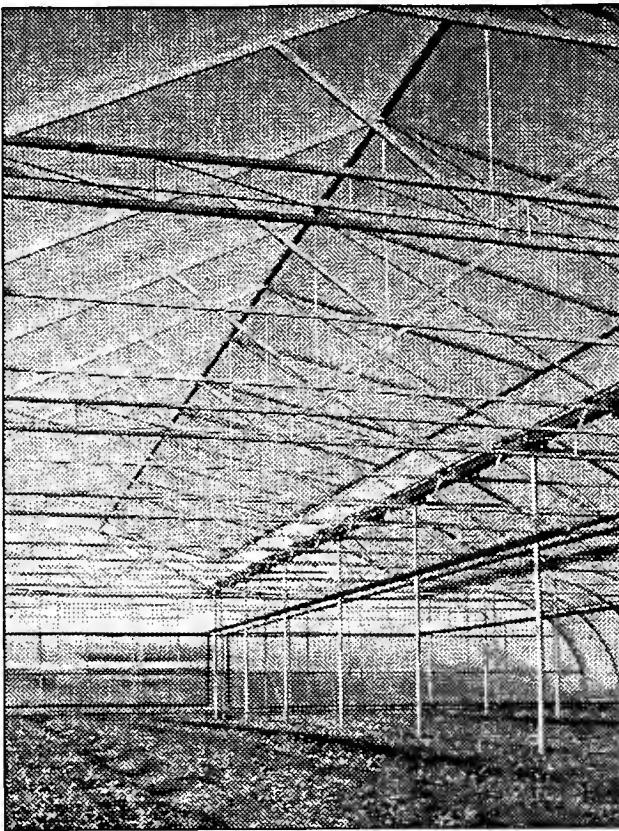
These types of environmental control and heat retention systems can be used by many greenhouse operators in Ontario.

PARTNERSHIP IN POLLUTION PREVENTION AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Industrial companies doing business in Ontario may seek ministry/industry services that will help them to:

- * use energy and water more efficiently;
- * reduce, reuse and recycle solid waste;
- * reduce or eliminate liquid effluents and gaseous emissions.

Equipment and service supply companies can benefit from the information provided on technologies identified for business development.



Poly greenhouse

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
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**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND ENERGY SERVICES**

For information on Ministry of Environment and Energy assistance to industry, please contact the Industry Conservation Branch at (416) 327-1492, Fax (416) 327-1261.

This project profile was prepared and published as a public service by the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy. Its purpose is to transfer information to Ontario companies about findings and recommendations of a resource conservation and environmental analysis conducted by a consulting engineering firm at an industrial plant in Ontario.

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